EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas A. Mattioli on 4/06/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising at least one beacon device capable of wireless message transmission and at least one portable device capable of receiving such a message transmission, wherein the beacon is arranged to broadcast a series of inquiry messages each in the form of a plurality of predetermined data fields arranged according to a first communications protocol, wherein the beacon is further arranged to add to each inquiry message prior to transmission an additional data field, and wherein the beacon is further arranged to include an indication in one of said predetermined data fields, said indication denoting the presence of said additional data field, and wherein the at least one portable device is arranged to receive the transmitted inquiry messages and read data from said additional data field, the additional data field including location information.

2. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the beacon is arranged to add said additional data field at the end of a respective inquiry message.

3. Canceled.

4. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first communications protocol comprises Bluetooth messaging.

5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein a special Dedicated Inquiry Access Code (DIAC) is used to indicate the presence of location information in the additional data field.

6. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the presence of location information in the additional data field is indicated with header information appearing in the additional data field.

7. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein wireless messaging system employs frequency hopping, and further wherein location data is sent on each frequency used for inquiry message broadcasts.

8. (Original) A mobile communication device for use in the system of claim 1, the device comprising a receiver capable of receiving a short-range wireless inquiry message including a plurality of data fields according to a first communications protocol, means for determining when an additional data field including location information has been added to said plurality of data fields, and means for reading the location information data from such an additional data field.

9. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the receiver is configured to receive messages according to Bluetooth protocols.

10. Canceled.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling the user of a portable communications device to receive broadcast messages wherein at least one beacon device broadcasts a series of inquiry messages each in the form of a plurality of

predetermined data fields arranged according to a first communications protocol, wherein the beacon adds to each inquiry message prior to transmission an additional data field carrying broadcast message data including location information, and wherein the beacon includes an indication in one of said predetermined data fields, said indication denoting the presence of said additional data field, and wherein the portable device receives the transmitted inquiry messages including the location information and reads the broadcast data from said additional data field.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the beacon adds said additional data field at the end of a respective inquiry message.

13. Canceled.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first communications protocol comprises Bluetooth messaging.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAREN L. LE whose telephone number is (571)272-7487. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon and Thurs: 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz can be reached on 571-272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Karen L Le/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

/Quoc D Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614